

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

ROUTING SLIP

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Remarks

3637 (10-81)

JBC
Executive Secretary

3/30/84

Date

The President's Commission on Executive Exchange
THE WHITE HOUSE



Executive Director

Executive Registry

84- 1437

March 28, 1984

Dear Mr. Casey: *Bell*

President Reagan met with the Commissioners of the President's Commission on Executive Exchange, Executives in the program and government officials on January 9, 1984.

He addressed the group, highly commending Chairman Burke, the Commissioners and the participating Executives. Among the guests were James Baker, Edwin Meese, Secretary Clark, Secretary Hodel, Secretary Bell, Secretary Regan, Secretary Marsh, Gerald Carmen, James Beggs, Roscoe Egger, Harry Walters, William Draper, James Miller, Alfred Eckes, Nunzio Palladino, Postmaster Bolger, and Paul Volcker.

Enclosed is a copy of the President's presentation. The original has been sent to the Archives. There were handwritten additions made on the original copy by the President prior to deliverance. He also graciously ad-libbed beyond the prepared speech.

We value your continued support of the President's Commission on Executive Exchange.

Cordially,

June G. Walker
June G. Walker

The Honorable William J. Casey
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Room 345
Old Executive Office Building
Washington, DC 20500

DCI
EXEC
REG

P-137

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

**President Reagan's Address
to the
President's Commission on Executive Exchange**

January 9, 1984

One of our first tasks when we got to Washington three years ago was to assess the various Departments, Agencies, and Commissions. As this evaluation progressed, we discovered untapped potential in Agencies and Commissions which, if given the right direction and leadership, had great promise.

This Commission on Executive Exchange is a good example. It was originally charged with bridging the gap between government and business. It's said that when all is said and done, there's usually more said than done. Well, I was fortunate to find a high-energy individual for this Commission to get things done.

When June Walker was appointed Executive Director nearly three years ago, she moved quickly to rebuild the Commission and set it on a course to fulfill its mandate. A prestigious slate of Commissioners from the private and public sectors was brought on board. I want to congratulate June and thank each of you. What has been accomplished these last three years—the total revitalization of this Commission—has been a triumph.

Under Jim Burke's astute leadership, the Commission has progressed far beyond our initial expectations. Jim, a special thanks to you.

Together, we've seen the Commission headquarters relocated to Jackson Place, the staff reorganized and reconstituted, the program upgraded to attract key executives, and the qualifications for acceptance raised and tightened.

An exciting new dimension has been added to the program by sending business executives to assist U.S. Ambassadors abroad. An executive from TRW with high technology background is presently serving in the U.S. Embassy in Japan, and has proven to be extraordinarily valuable to the Ambassador and his staff. Most recently, Leon Gibbs, President of a Johnson & Johnson subsidiary, has been appointed to a position in the U.S. Embassy in Jamaica. He will serve as the Regional Director for the Caribbean Basin Initiative, assisting the Ambassador and the State Department in coordinating investment planning, marketing, and export trade. Mr. Gibbs is with us today. We wish you well in this challenging position.

Other positions in France and Mexico are being explored. Again, this new effort will reap rewards of knowledge and understanding both by government and business—in this case, international business.

With the current level of enthusiasm and activity, your Commission's credibility is at a new high point. I understand you receive calls from senior Administration officials looking to fill specific decision and policy-making positions. The top executives you've helped put in key government positions speak well of the job you are doing. It also reflects a new credibility in both the government and the business community.

I want to thank the corporate world for contributing to the efforts of the Commission. Chief Executive Officers have nominated highly motivated and qualified executives. They have been and are involved in critical, long-range decisions which will help determine the relationship between business and government for years to come.

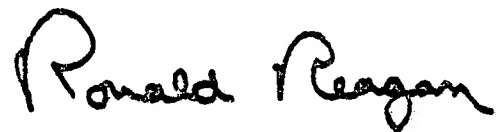
With us today are executives from the business world who are accepting the challenges of demanding federal positions. Good luck. This program was established so each of you will contribute your business acumen and corporate experience while gaining a perspective on the inner workings of government.

On the flip side, the Commission is placing senior government executives in responsible and challenging positions in the private sector for a year's duration. I want to pay tribute to these top-notch executives. Federal executives at times have been vastly underrated and I think you've done much to counteract that false assumption. I commend and applaud your outstanding performance and dedication. We look forward to your continued successes and expect you'll get some new ideas that will be useful when you get back to your federal job.

It's no secret that one of the primary goals of this Administration has been reducing the growth in federal spending. The President's Commission on Executive Exchange has done its part here, too. I'd like to especially applaud the plan—now in legislative form—to permit corporations to fund the full salary of the private sector executives while on assignment to the government under this program.

The spirit which all of you—Commissioners, private sector executives, and government officials—personify is solid evidence that partnership between government and business has enormous potential. We are showing what can be accomplished when we work together.

We are building a cooperative spirit with this exchange of executives. In the final analysis, we are all Americans trying to do our best. This program is designed to help us all do just that. Thanks for what you've done—God bless you.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Ronald Reagan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "R".